

Issue #77

August 1, 1985

STUFF

HERD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and MACHIAVELLI. HM is published irregularly (about 4-5 times a year) whenever it's possible to get one typed, printed, and mailed. Subscriptions cost \$5.50/12 issues. \$5.00 should just about cover you for the life of the zine. If you are a novice player, this zine would not be good for starting postal DIP games. However, if you want in a game quickly, very quickly, then this could be a great investment for you. Standbys are urgently needed and will continue to be on demand for awhile. Any potential standby players out there? There are no current game openings. HM is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone: (805) 834-8409.

Surprise! It was only 4 weeks ago that the last HM showed up! But now don't expect to see another one until December. But always expect, when it comes to DIPLOMACY, the unexpected. If you have anything you want to see published herein, please send it in by all means!

The football season will soon be upon us . . .

How about any early training camp predictions? Will the Houston Oilers be vastly improved now that they have acquired Mike Rozier? Are the Rams better off sending Vince Ferragamo off to Buffalo? Who is this new guy the Rams signed as QB, you know the guy on the dist, oh yeah, Dieter Brock. You're kidding! I'm afraid to say that since Carol Rosenblum(sp?) drowned, my beloved Rams have not made the best front office moves. It was no coincidence that the Rams let Bob Brudzinski go to the Dolphins, and not long thereafter Miami's linebacking problems were solved. Brudzinski is the best outside linebacker against the rush in the game today. Another example of the poor front office work is the way they let Mike Fanning go. I always thought he did a super if not flashy job for the Rams. Now he's in Seattle where I bet he contributes significantly this year. The 49'ers were my pick last year and as of this time I don't see a better team around (still). Who do you guys think will do well?

Wow. . . we're into August already. Football practice starts on the 19th. It may be awhile before the next one of these gets thrown together . . . Many thanks for those who have already wished us as successful a season as last.

Gary Coughlan doesn't like Billy Crystal. I think he's pretty funny at times, but some of his stuff doesn't quite come off. Unfortunately, "You look marvelous," in that retarded accent is going to be around for awhile.

I read in a recent BUSHWACHER reviewing the recent MaryCon that Bernie Oaklyn was present and playing at the FIF Tourney held there. Bernie sent me a check and a preference list for my next game opening a few months ago. He apparently is making his re-re-appearance into the pub hobby. I returned Bernie's check with the news that I had no game openings and didn't know if I'd accept his offer to play in my zine even if I did. I'd urge all you new Dippy publishers (and there's a lot of them!) to think twice about letting the previously mentioned personage (Buddy Tretick, Bernie Oaklyn, or Bernie Oakland, or other alias too numerous to mention) play in my zine. For more details on him, I suggest you write to Mark Baroh, 492 Naylor Pl., Alexandria, VA 22304. He can fill you in.

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Gary Coughlan))

Dear Ron,

I was happy to see MM in my mailbox again as it's always a pleasant experience. I know how you feel about not having a set schedule. I think irregular scheduling, aside from the game results to the players themselves, is the best way. Berch's DIPLOMACY DIGEST is like that -- I like the system of do it when you're in the mood and you have the time.

Well, welcome back!

PS - Whatever happened to Al Rodriguez? He wasn't on your address list.

((Al Rodriguez, 2112 Roosevelt, Bakersfield, CA 93304 is still active! (At least according to some rumors.) I just left him off the list last time! Also omitted were Tom Heflin, Al's roommate at the same address above, and Ben Schilling, Apt. 315, 24730 Roosevelt Ct., Farmington Hills, MI 48018-2123. Al is continuing in his game in 1983GR. Thanks for the support on how MM will be scheduled in the future.-RB))

((from Jim Burgess))

Dear 1983AY Player,

I am pleased to report that the decision of the players is in and the game will remain with Mike Courn. Send your orders to him on the regular deadline. I want to thank those of you that responded promptly to my letter. I also want to thank Ron (California) Brown for his cooperation.

I won't be revealing the "vote", in respect for the privacy of the players and I hope this game, as well as MURD'RING MINISTERS in general, gets back on a regular schedule and has no further need for my services. That is really all I have to say. Thanks again for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Burgess
U.S.Orphan Service Co-
Director

((As you non-83AY players read about last time, there was a call for the Orphan Games Director to look into the lengthy delay. The players have decided to keep the game with Mike; a move that I'm sure pleases him. Again, I'd like to commend Jim for the prompt, persevering, yet polite manner in which he dealt with me (and Mike) over the delay of the game. Thanks. The Orphan Service is in capable hands. - RB))

((from Jeff Albrecht))

Dear Ron,

I noted with interest that you will be joining a new MACH game soon. I assume that you are talking about a postal MACH game. If you have the names and address of zines that have MACH games, I would appreciate it if you would send them along. Better would be DIP zine that regularly carry one or two MACH games in them. The MACH game in MM has been a learning experience as it is my first MACH game. But, I don't think it is all that it could be because there is very little communication among the players. Or, do you think that there is normally less communication in a postal MACH game than there is in a postal DIP game? I would appreciate your help with the names and addresses and whatever recommendations you may have therewith.

And, I'm sorry to hear that MM will be coming to an end. It has been my favorite DIP zine for a long time (period). But, I can understand the reasons for folding it. I have always wondered where you find the time and energy to publish with work, home, and family, pulling at your time -- I know I couldn't do it. I thought of starting

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

(Albrecht Con'd)

a zine a few years ago, but decided it was out of the question with the various time commitments already made -- maybe when I retire or the kids grow up. I'm glad to hear that you want to finish the games, and I look forward to hearing from you occasionally. Still, MM will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace. I have enjoyed it. Thanks.

Cordially,
Jeff Albrecht

((Thank you very much for the kind words, Jeff. It's guys like you who have been with me from the very beginnings of the zine and let me know you've enjoyed my efforts over the years who make it all worthwhile. It's been a pleasure, but all good things . . . I'm glad you have received some pleasure from the zine . . . and I hope there will be a few more to come you will also enjoy before the end is here. As to your questions about who is running MACHIAVELLI games right now, I honestly don't know of any. How about it you guys out there? Any of you know of zines which cover some MACH? The game I signed up for is being GM'd by Mark Twitty of Sacramento, but it's not in a zine. He's just is running the game and sending out results only. I will send this issue to Mark and the guys in the game and see if any of them will standby for me in MACH NO.52. Perhaps Mark would be interested in running a second game? How about it Mark? Let us know. From my own limited experience in postal MACH, it would seem as if there is LESS communication than in your average DIP game (although some DIP games can be pretty dead too!!). I have played in one pbm game, am in the middle of one I'm adjudicating as GM here in MM, and now I have just started this brand new game. Clark Reynolds, my old pal from the Valentine's Day Massacre in Sacto (my only ~~4~~ ftf exposure to Steve Langley - even though I didn't know who he was at the time), is France in the game. He coerced me into playing when he was down here in town on business a few times. What really got me signed up was the knowledge that Dave "The Machine" Grabar was playing. Dave is the Pope (Ha! What a laugh!) and I'm Venioe. It looks like fun. But back to your question. No, I haven't gotten a lot of response from the players so far. I wrote everyone but heard only from Clark (France), Dave, and Milan. Anyhow, wish me luck on the game . . . Thanks for writing, Jeff! - RB))

((from Ron Brown))

Dear Ron,

Sorry to hear about the fold of MM and of your problems publishing for the past year. I now very well where you're coming from, as I could well have written exactly the same word as you did in "More Stuff" on pg. 8. I too started my hobby life as a bachelor and wound up with two kids, etc. I, and I guess everyone, lead three lives: work, family, and personal -- and the hobby is only a part of the latter. And there's only so much one can give to each. Right now work and family are both demanding 100% -- and I feel as if I am constantly hanging on by my finger nails. Fortunately, since I reduced my hobby involvement to a workable minimum, Ann is much more understanding about the few hours I snatch here and there. It also helps that my aince production can be handled pretty much in two evenings now, instead of two entire weekends, so that if something come up on Friday night I don't fret as much, as I know I'll have a few more days to work on it.

I also have been quite sickened and discouraged by the hobby in the past year, but I'm finding that more and more voices are being raised in protest against people like Byrne, Olsen, and Langley and their tactics. There are a lot of hopeful signs that things are taking a turn for the better.

Best wishes,
Ron Brown

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

((Well, I'm finding out at least that I'm not the only guy in the hobby who has real-life committments too! I don't know if it's because misery loves company, but it helps me to know that other friends of mine face similar pressure in dealing with hobby vs. real life. I am attempting to follow your excellent example and cut down my hobby commitment to a tolerable level. I feel really comfortable with the present situation with MM. I hope folks enjoy these last few issues. But they will only be produced when I have the time and ability to do so. I like that feeling! As far as your remark about being "sickened and discouraged" by the hobby in the last year, again I'm glad I'm not alone. I agree, things are improving a bit at least. Ask Steve Hutton if I send you and him a copy of MM when they come out, ~~how~~ if he will send me a copy of NO FIXED ADDRESS (Ron's got a subzine there)? Thanks for writing . . . - RB))).

((from Don Del Grande))

Ron:

I don't think I've written to you since you won the DipCon at ORIGINS 81. Anyway, I see that MURD'RING MINISTERS is making what appears to be some sort of comeback after a slight delay . . .

You're in luck! I also just HAPPEN to have the 1985 Official High School Football Rules (as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations - but find out if the California Interscholastic Federation (or is it Foundation? I can never remember) decided to use some of their own rules, like they do in basketball); being an announcer for my old school's team, I like to keep up on the latest rules. I can't believe they're actually getting closer and closer to everybody else's football rules! JUST IN CASE you haven't seen them yet, here are some of the more obvious changes for 1985:

- * A kickoff (well, any free kick) which goes out-of-bounds between the goal lines and not touched by the receiving team is no longer brought back to the line 10 yards behind the receiving team's kick line (e.g. for most kickoffs, the receiving team's 40) - instead, the receiving team can choose to take the ball where it went out or have the kicking team kick again with a 5 yard penalty.
- * An offensive player in motion is no longer allowed to block below the waist in the free blocking zone.
- * A "shift" is now defined as one or more offensive players moving to a new position(s) after a huddle or after taking a set position(s), no matter where the movement is from or to.
- * Offensive motion parallel to the line of scrimmage is now allowed. (Under to old rules, only movement toward the offensive team's goal was allowed.)
- * Ineligible Receiver Downfield is now penalized as 5 yards and loss of down.
- * Illegal Blocking Technique, Illegal Use of Hands, Interlocked Interference, Holding, Runner Grasping A Teammate, and Striking Blocker's Head With Hands are 10 yard penalties.
- * The re-entry of a disqualified player, as well as the use of pretended substitutions to deceive the opponent, is an Illegal Participation foul (that's 15 yards).
- * Blocking below the waist is allowed at all times if the person being blocked has both feet in the air.

For these and other piddling little changes (including one that means that the new "cleat rules" won't be enforced until 1987), consult your own copy in the orange cover.

In the meantime, the two-forward passes -on-the-same-play rule is still in the book. (I'd also like to remind you of a play that our team used in a game last year which took everybody by surprise. After a safety, we punted the ball -

((Continued next pg.))

RRR (Continued)

the opponents decided to let the ball roll to our 40, where our players fell on it. Since it was a free kick, we kept possession, despite the fact that it was a punt. Hopefully, your team won't ever have to use this one - just make sure your opponents don't get away with something like this!)

Regards,

Don

((Thanks for writing, Don. Yes, I remember Origins well. That was a great time. It sounds like your opponents in the situation above forgot that you can ~~fact~~ fair catch a free kick as well as a punt--but as you found out any kind of a free kick (punt, place kick, kick-off, or drop-kick) is a live ball and whoever jumps on it gets to keep it! Speaking of unusual plays, one that I saw a long time ago in my Junior College playing days was performed by the QB of Allan Hancock College. After a play (a X QB sweep) where the QB was the ball carrier and was tackled, he got up holding his wrist and began staggering for the sidelines. The rest of the team just sort of milled about the football while the QB made his way to the sidelines. Our defense was totally relaxed and off-guard when suddenly the center flipped the ball to the fullback who turned and drilled it to the QB who was just inside the out-of-bounds sideline, who caught it and sprinted 65 yards untouched for a score! I've seen a few other oddball plays but that one takes the cake! As for the rules changes. . . It always amazes me why these idiotic rules committees change the rules back and forth just for the sake of making changes. Take the kickoff rule - it was placed there because studies showed that many knee injuries occurred during the crazy open-field action of kick-offs. Why make them do them over and over and take unnecessary risks of injuries? But now they're going back to the old way and many kickoffs that go out of bounds inside the receiving team's 30 yard line will be re-kicked from 5 yards back. That is a dumb change. That offensive motion rule is another dumb one. I haven't seen an official call illegal motion in 8 years because the back went parallel to the line of scrimmage. My head coach will be happy about the change to 10 yard penalties, I think. He has long complained that accidental grabbing of the facemask should only be a 5 or 10 yd. penalty instead of 15. Maybe he'll like that holding only gets you 10 yds. I know BHS and WEst will like this rule as much holding as they try and get away with. Thanks for writing, Don! - RB))

((from Bill Schiwauts))

Dear Ron,

It has been a long and pleasant association and I'm sorry to hear MRD'RDC MINISTERS will be drawing to its ultimate conclusion. You published an excellent magazine with interesting articles and lively correspondence. The games were well ordered and adjudicated with minimal adjustment and the results were received on a timely basis.

The hobby has been enhanced by ~~my~~ your participation and I am happy that I was able to be a principal player in several games. I can understand the demands and responsibilities which can and do occur and I wish you success and happiness in all endeavors.

All the best,

Bill Schiwauts

((Thank you for the kind words, Bill. What I said to Jeff Albrecht goes to you too. You've been a "loyal subber" for a long time and you have been fun to watch play. I believe every game you played here you did exceptionally well in. Bill is also an excellent FTF player; so if you get an chance to get into a game with this guy, it is strongly recommended. I hope that you enjoy these last few issues of MI. And who knows? Maybe MI will return? Thanks for writing! - RB))

RRR (Continued)

((from Bob Olsen))

Dear Ron,

Hope there hasn't been too much of a delay in answering MM -- I just got back from vacation a few days ago and faced the usual mountain of mail, and of course the upcoming games had to come first. Plus, both this typewriter and my other one (even worse) aren't feeling too well at the moment.

I'm a little confused by MM -- which is the final version of what you plan to do? One place it's continue, then again elsewhere, it's fold. I've seen it before in zines, where things are in flux and one page was typed at some time in one mood, and another page sometime else and with different feelings. If it should be that you do plan to fold MM though (and you should do whatever is best for you and your family) then I'll just say that it was one of Dipdom's finest in its day, but alas, all good things must come to an end. I do wish you continued success with whatever you might attempt, and maybe someday when things are not so hectic, you can make a comeback. I've recently heard that our old buddy (1980KJ or something) Bob Arnett is returning to the hobby. Who knows, maybe VOLKERWANDERUNG will make a comeback. I'm in a nostalgic mood, sort of (oh no, am I becoming a Golden Ager?) and would maybe even sign up with Bob. (Anybody named Bob must be OK).

I was of course deeply thrilled to get the NIXON Award. Unlike some of the others . . . who knows, this may be the closest I ever come to being a good player! So what if Mazzer made it all up!

By the way, if your plans to fold MM go through, I think Mike Mazzer would be willing to take over the NIXON Award. (Of course it's true he was talking about this before the latest issue came out and probably just wanted to fix the competition). We could even change the name to the Ron Brown Award . . . Hmmm, maybe that's not such a great idea.

Deadline for Watergate is coming up and I'll have to mention the NIXON in SHADOWPLAY of course. I'll send you a copy (not such an interesting season otherwise). Plus Mark Frueh will be at Pudgecon and if possible I'll send you a photo of the trophy ceremony later on. Meanwhile, take care, and all the best as always. (Hmmm, that sounds like an anthology of Dick Martin and Tom Swider signoffs . . .)

Best wishes,
Bob Olsen

((Thanks for writing Bob! I always enjoy getting letters from friends like you, and Bill and Jeff, and Gary, and all. I'm sorry I was confusing in the last Issue regarding MM's fate. What I meant to say was this: MM will fold some time after the final game I am GMing concludes. I'd guess this will be 2-2½ years. During this period, I will publish issues of MM. However, there will be no set time schedule for the issues. I'd guess about 4 a year. The games I am the GM for will be run on monthly schedules and players notified by individual flyer issues of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, my MM subzine. So, I will fold MM, but it will be 6-8 issues down the road and about 2 years, from now. I think this will work out best for all. Maybe 10 years from now I'll have the time and inclination to revive MM and begin again. We'll see. A phone conversation with Paul Gardner got me thinking the other day. He asked if I'd consider someone else taking over the publication of MM for me, as is the common practice in England. I told him I'd never considered it. I probably wouldn't. I don't know. He also asked me about the future of the NIXON Award. First, I think I'll continue it regardless of MM's future. When MM has folded, I don't anticipate being totally out of the DIPLOMACY scene. I'll still play and maintain contacts with the hobby. But if I should relinquish "rights" to it, I promised Al Pearson long ago that he could take it over. He would have first shot at it. Then I guess Mazzer or Gardner would be next. We'll see. For this year, though, start thinking about who you want to nominate for the 1985 NIXON, which will begin announcements in Nov. Well, thanks for writing, and congrats on your well-deserved NIXON recognition!! - RB))

. . . and now, the . . .

NIXON AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH*
by
Bob Olsen

((* excerpte from an hour-long oration given at the Banquet of Fabrication, held annually at the Waldorf Hotel, Downtown Weedpatch - RB))

My fellow Americans,

Unlike past NIXON Award laureates, who have so often behaved like naughty kids caught with their hands in the cookie jar, I want everyone to know that this is one winner who plans to be an active representative of all that is Nixonian in Dipdom. No whining and enivelling from this eki-jump-nose, no siree! Because, you see, Mike Mazzer has been nothing more than a pawn in my campaign to actively campaign for this award!

Mazzer has made a number of chargees against me, some of which even bear slight reeemblance to events in this universe. But the fact is, I tricked him into nominating me. When Ron first invented the NIXON Award I knew right off that this was my goal and sole justification for participating in Dipdom, but how was I to get one? As everyone knows I am far too nice to win a NIXON on my own; my policy of good deeds and firm alliances would never cause the sort of bitter recriminations that have resulted in past NIXON Awards for ruthless scoundrels such as -- for example -- Mike Mazzer.

It would be a trifle insincere (even for a NIXON) for me to claim that I never lie in a Dip game. I have to confesse that at certain vast intervals I have stretched the truth slightly, purely in the intereste of my own survival of course. I'm not ashamed to say that even a nefarious activity such as telling the fib is sometimes preferable to the alternative, such as being whipped with red-hot scorpions, or worse, letting Mazzer win. Can any of you out there really blame me?

So, my fellow Dippere, you've got me and now (chuckle, enivker) you're stuck with me. Keep your nose clean and don't get in my face and everthing will be just fine. And by the way Ron, is it too early for me to begin campaigning for next year's award?

((Bravo! A fine acceptance speech. Those of you who, like Bob, share an interest in being named the winner of next year's award, better start campaigning now. The next issue of MM will announce the opening for nominations for NIXON 1985. Any of you had occasion to share a game with this year's potential "Biggest Liar of the year?" Start thinking about putting your thoughts on paper and entering the NIXON Award essay contest for next year's winner. Thanks Bob for taking the awarding of this recognition in the spirit of fun and good humor for which it was created! - RB))

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MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

DIPLOMACY - Dan Gorham, Jim Bumpae, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Mike Coburn, Stan Johnson, Paul Gardner, Ron Kelly. Anyone else want on or off? We could use some more!

MACHIAVELLI - None! Jim Broehot says he will take over France if his Austria gets wiped out. Any objections? Any of you players from Mark Twitney's MACH game I'm in want to come in as a etandby player? Please?!

THE GAMES!!!

1983HX SUMMER 1904 Austrian A Ser-r-RUM

1983HX FALL 1904 AUSTRIA & FRANCE ELIMINATED!! STILL WILD GAME!!

Austria (Holly): A Rum-Sev-/d/-r-Gal,OTB.

England (Hugh): F Eng-MAO; F NAT-s-F Eng-MAO; F Wal-ENG; A Brs-GAS; F STP(nc)-H;
F NWY-s-F StP(nc).

France (CD): A Spa-H/d/.

Germany (Gorham): F Bal-BER; F Bot-BAL; FSWE-s-F Bot-Bal; A PRU-War; A Bur-MUN;

A Tya-s-A Bur-Mun/d/-r-Ven-Pie,OTB; A Gas-BUR.

Italy (Kelly): F Wss-SPA(sc); A MAR-s-F Wes-Spa(sc); F Tun-NAF; A TRI-s-Turkish
A Ser-Vie/imp/; F TYS-Lyo; F LYO-H(unordsred).Russia (Baldwin): A UKR-Sev; A Bud-RUM; A Boh-TYA; A VIE-s-A Boh-Tya; A SIL-War;
F LVN-Bal.

Turkey (Torkelson): A SER-s-Russian A Bud-Rum; F Gre-ALB; A Bul-GRE; A Con-BUL; F Asg-ION.

Winter 1904 AND Spring 1905 ars due 9/15/85.

1983HX 1904 Supply Center Chart

Austria- ~~Spa~~.....(0) OUT

England- Home,Nwy,Dre,StP.....(6) 0

France- ~~Spa~~.....(0) OUT

Germany- Homs,Bsl,Hol,Den,Swe,Par.....(8)+1 (was 1 short)

Italy- Home,Tun,Tri,Mar,SFA.....(7)+1

Russia- Mos,War,Ssv,Rum,Bud,Vis.....(6) 0

Turkey- Home,Bul,Gre,SER.....(6)+1

1983HX Press-

THE PORTE(Constaninople)-WORLD: Wake up sverybody, ths sun is finally coming up.

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* Venice A5-Vsrona Past time!

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GM Nots: Austria A2 Tyrolea-a/ last time incorrect; corrset your report to rsad A2-r-Turin
MACH. NO. 52 SUMMER 1456 VENICE SWEEPS THROUGH FLORENCE WHILE FRANCE HEADS FOR FRENCH SOIL!Milan (Albrecht): A1 Genoa-S-Savoy; A2 Como-S-Tyrolea; A3 Trent-A-Milan; A4 Savoy-B-
Savoy; A5 Carinthia-S-Tyrolsa; A6 Tyrolsa-A-Swiss; A7 Pavia-A-Turin;
A9 Milan-A-Tyrolea.Venics (Coburn): A1 Bologna-A-Florsnce; A2 Slavonia-A-Croatia; A3 Modena-a-Lucca;
A4 Doslria-A-Dalmatia; A5 Verona-A-Vicsnaz; F1 UppAdr-S-Ancona;
F2 Romagna-A-Ancona.

Papacy (Patejak): G1 Sisen-a-C-A1; A3 Rome-H; F1 Ancona-H.

Naples (Heflin): F1 Patrimony-A-Eastys; F2 WesGLyo-A-Marssilles; F3 Eastys-A-Mssina;
~~R4~~ A1 Tivoli-A-Spoletto; A2 Bari-A-Otranto.Turks (Palter): A1 Heerzegonina-A-Dalmatia; A2 Albania-A-Herzegovina; F1 LowAdr-
A-UppAdr; F2 WesMed-A-Palermo; F3 Ion-A-GNap; F4 Tunis-A-BayTun.Austria (Broshot): A2 Turin-A-Fornova/imp/; A3 Austria-H.

France (CD): F1 Wes-Tys-H; F2 Provsnce-H.

I have not yet replaced Frsnch forces with autonomous garrisons because sither Jim Broshot
or one of the other Twitty players may take it over next tims.

Autonomous garrisons remain in Savoy, Piambino, Ragusa, Lucca, & N Bologna.

Fall 1456 is due 9/10/85.

MACH NO 52 Press-

CEDARHURST-RON: Best of luck in whatever follows and many thanks for running such
a good zine for as long as you did.BAKERSFIELD-DAN: Thanks! It's been a plsasure with good sports and fine guys like
yourself playing hers!* * * * *
"You may relish im more in the soldier
Than in ths scholar."

OTHELLO II, 1, 165.

1983F FINAL STATS AND ENDGAME STATEMENTS

1983F MURD'RING MINISTERS (Ron Brown). Austria: Ty Hare (Res F'05) Jim Gray (Out W'06); England: James Donop (Drop S'04) Jim Williams (Out W'04); France: Mike Coburn (DRAW F'08); Germany: Paul Gardner. Italy: Mike Cannon (Drop F'07) CD; Russia: Don Scheifler (Out W'07); Turkey: Bill Schiwautz (DRAW F'08).

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
A	5	7	8	7	2	0	X	
E	4	4	2	0	X	X	X	
F	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	
G	5	6	5	4	5	7	7	
I	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	
R	4	2	3	3	4	1	0	
T	4	5	6	8	11	14	14	

GM COMMENT: 1983F was the 18th game of regular DIPLOMACY in the pages of MM. The game was marked by the rapid and spectacular Austrian expansion that suddenly went in reverse as Ty's nation went from 7 to 2 supply centers in one year! His loss was to the gain of the Turk and Frenchmen. From 1906 on it was basically a two horse F/T race with Germany stuck in the middle. Turkey had thoughts of going for the win late as he was near

it with 14 supply centers. Bill decided he couldn't quite do it, as Mike countered his mild attack there at the end and decided to settle for the 2-way F/T draw. Congratulations to Mike Coburn on his 2-way draw in this, his first game of postal DIPLOMACY. And also heartfelt comrats to Bill for once again playing a super game and ending as the other $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 2-way draw. Thanks, guys!

GERMANY - Paul Gardner (Surfaced with 7 SC Germany)

My first exposure to DIP was at college in '71. After '72, I lost contact with it till early '81 when I saw the game listed in an A-H catalogue and ordered a copy. From that point I only slowly got into it again; teaching friends to play; subscribing to THE GENERAL & DIPLOMACY WORLD and later PARANOID'S MONTHLY (which unfortunately had no game openings). Finally, I sent off for some samples of zines that were listed in DW and hence received my first copy of MM (along with LIBERTERRAAN, DOAST, and soon, THE PRINCE.) Soon, 1983F became my first game start and in true novice form, I set out thinking I had to etab someone in '01. (Well, I knew I didn't have to - I was just unwilling or unknowing of the fact most good Dippers know that the victim usually chooses himself.) I chose Russia. Don Scheifler looked like a good player, so I figured he had to go. Actually, I got some help from Bill Schiwautz in Turkey and Ty Hare in Austria. Unfortunately for me, I was not keeping my novice status a secret, so A-T probably just decided to make the best of a good thing and the result was Russia down to 2 centers and me turning to face England of all people, who was played - I believe - by Steve Adler.

While the eastern war was being planned, things were mostly smooth in the west. France had not been communicative (Mike Coburn), but for some reason (default perhaps) I decided to trust him. England I did not trust completely. He had obviously seen that it was not to his benefit to get involved in a war right off that could only yield him a center or 2 at least. I think he was waiting for me to expose myself to him. Instead, I sailed into Nth, took Edi, and exposed myself to Austria.

My communications with Ty had gone well and I thought of him as an ally. I figured we'd eventually turn the corner southward in Mos and take out Turkey and jointly we'd take out Italy and France. It was a nice plan, but I was unaware of how far trust should be stretched. After it happened, I could see that Austria's etab was a logical thing for him to do, but as it eventually turned out in the long run - it was more fatal for him to turn north than it was for me.

Ty's trips abroad at that point or his moving - I don't remember which - limited his participation in the game and he soon was engulfed by Turkey who quickly took over the lead in the game and looked like an eventual winner. France was what etopped him.

From my etab of England, that was aborted when Austria stabbed me, France picked up the trail and continued the war on England till England was eliminated. And from there he continued north till he had eliminated Russia, who had helped organize a defensive line against Turkey in the north. That left France in the dominant position on the west and Turkey on the east with me and what was left of Italy (Mike Cannon)

BAD NEWS FOR ALL GAMES INVOLVING STAN JOHNSON!!

GM-Players of the following games:

1983CR 1984CH 1983CS Your games are hereby delayed 2 weeks.

The new deadline for these 3 games is 8/21/85.

I thought I had my mailing list all in order on my computer and checked it over but nonetheless managed to leave off Ben Schilling and Stan Johnson. Ben ~~was~~ notified me soon enough that I was able to get him a copy and him get his moves in before the deadline. However, it was not until 8/1/85, the deadline itself, that a postcard from Stan arrived stating he had not got his issue yet. I found the same problem as with Ben. It is corrected and won't happen again. A 2 week delay is deemed sufficient so 8/21 is out new deadline. Orders on file for the following games are as:

1983CS Orders on file for I,T,F,A

1984CH Orders on file for T,R,I,E,F

1983CR SEASONS SEPARATED (Stan's country had No Adj)

1983CR WINTER 1905

England- Builds F LON

France- NRR! A Spa-r-OTB

Germany- Builds A MUN

Italy - No Adj

Russia - No Adj

Turkey- Builds F CON

Please note that Dan Gorham, 800 S. Euclid St., Fullerton, CA 92632 is the French player. Spring 1906 is due 8/21/85.

I tried to call Stan & see if I could inform him of the moves last time & collect his orders by phone but his number is unlisted and I don't have it.

1982IT FALL 1909 GM DECLARES 2 WEEK DELAY IN THIS ONE TOO TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT!

GM Note: Omitted from last game's game report were the following orders:

Italian- A YOR-H;

French A Ruh-HOL

I think most of you realized these and this is not the main reason for the delay. It seems as though a "Flying Dutchman" has at long last appeared in a MM game! Please note that Turkish A Con-BUL last time was a non-existent unit. Please correct your game reports to show:

Turkish A Con-Bul/NSU/

Turkish A Ser-s-F Adr-Tri/d/-r-Bul,OTB.

Orders on file for F,T,I,R (But there may be some changes . . .)

New deadline for FALL 1909 is 8/21/85.

"But I will wear my hart upon my
sleeve
For daws to peck at."

OTHELLO I, 1, 64.

" O! beware, my lord, of jealousy;
It is the greeney'd monster which doth
mock
The meat it feeds on; that cuckold lives
in bliss
Who, certain of his fate, loves not his
wronger;
But, O! what damned minutes tells he
o'er
Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet
soundly loves!"

OTHELLO III, 111, 165.

I take the title of this, for lack of better words, series of opinions regarding the Boardman Number Custodian's decision to declare 1983AY Irregular. As most of you (who give a shit) know, back a year ago, in Aug. of 1984 the then current BNC, Kathy Byrne made the above decision. I have since aired my own opinion about it, somewhat briefly at the time and then tried to forget about it. Many letters came in expressing various sentiments about the situation. I have decided for several reasons, to go ahead and publish these letters and discuss the whole thing. Mike Coburn says he will save his comments until the game has been complete. I will respond to several of the points brought up in the letters at the very end, so as not to interfere with your reading of OTHERS' opinions about it. First up . . .

((from Gary Coughlan))

Dear Ron,

On the game situation, I don't see where it's any reflection on you at all and I don't think anyone would get a negative picture of you.

It seems to me that Kathy Byrne and Mark Berch were very reluctant to even rule in this case. I don't think there would have even been a need for any ruling period unless Dan Stafford hadn't pushed for it. I'm basing this on Bob Olsen's letter in MM #72 where he says; "even though Stafford's motives may not be totally angelic, if he wants to protest, that's his right . . ." and from talking to Steve "Woody" Arnawoodian who says that Dan Stafford is a rating player.

Woody's opinion is that Stafford was going to be eliminated and that he didn't want that on his player ratings so he then went for an irregular ruling, regardless of whom it might hurt. What a baby.

((from Judy Winsome & Jerry Lucas))

Dear Ron,

As Judy, a GM,

I share your surprise at the interpretation regarding the assignment of countries. To me, any decision regarding irregularity should be based upon someone taking an unfair advantage. If there is no unfair advantage, there should be no judgement of irregularity. Since nothing formal is published on what constitutes irregularity in a game except precedence, I always assumed that the sin would have to be pretty terrible, like the Bernie Oallyn type of cheating, to declare a game irregular. I never imagined that the method of assigning countries was a matter of concern. It seems to me that the fact that a player had a part in assigning countries could not be used to unfair advantage in a game. I can conceive of a scheme where each player assigns countries for all the players and assignments made on the outcome of that vote, by consensus in other words. To me the game begins with Spring 1901, not with player assignments. The rules state the players should draw lots to assign countries. In most zines, mine included, they are assigned based on player preference. This must be an irregularity as well. From this perspective, what you did in having Dan draw the assignments was closer to the rule book than what I do.

As Judy,

Regarding the selection of a standby player, I still don't see what advantage there is in having a say in who gets asked to standby. Besides, no one resigned and no one was asked to standby. No hard, no foul.

As Jerry,

Regarding the passing of the information that someone was considering resigning, if it can be shown that an unfair advantage was gained because of it, then maybe a case can be made for irregularity, unintentional though it may have been. From my standpoint, I also heard that Dan was thinking of resigning. Where I gained this information in the chain of events I don't know. It seems to me that the criteria should be evidence of taking an unfair advantage. I don't see any evidence of that here.

((Con't next pg.))

83AY "Affair" (Con'd)

As Jerry,

I suspect you want to get beyond this whole affair, and I agree with you. I admire your handling of it. I don't expect you to print any of this. It wasn't written for that purpose. I just wanted you to know that I support you, I enjoy your zine, and I hope to continue playing in it for as long as you care to publish.

((from Ron Brown))

Dear Ron,

I was strongly tempted to write a scathing editorial in my last issue of SNAPU! on the 1983AY issue. I think this one is serious enough that it could well open some festering hobby wounds. However, I already have an editorial denouncing "Foot In Mouth" editorial policies, and figure that's enough for John and Kathy to take in one day.

I noted with interest that Kathy complained in the last "Kathy's Korner" that she was being attacked because of BNC decisions. I couldn't help but wonder if she wasn't thinking of 1983AY -- but I would hardly call arguing an "attack". So, first off, this is not an "attack" -- it's an argument -- where it belongs: in the zine where the game under question is being played.

I could hardly believe Kathy's letters which you printed in MM. She starts by saying that Mike's telling you of Stafford's resignation was a minor offense and concludes: "I do not feel that this is a reason for irregularity". Good for Kathy. The matter should never have been brought to her attention, as BNC, to begin with. We have ombudsment for situations like that. It is minor, and not to be encouraged. A warning would have sufficed.

But then she goes on to declare the game irregular because the selection of countries was by a random draw by a third party! I've never heard of anything so absurd in my life. If I, as a GM, handed my wife a list of names and said, "Here, draw these names out of a hat to assign countries for this game I am beginning", I'd be committing an offense so serious that my game would be forever damned by the BNC. Mark Berch's reasoning, if I can follow the secondhand reports, is that the GM must be present for the selection of countries. Since when? If this is a hobby rule, I wish someone would inscribe it in the Rulebook so we poor naive GMs won't go around breaking it! If I avert my eyes while a name is drawn, does that make the game irregular? Am I allowed to observe the drawing from 5 feet away? Must I be in the same house, though allowed to be in another room? Come on, Mark and Kathy. What's the rule that Mike broke? A random draw is a random draw in my dictionary no matter who does it. The fact that Ron asked a third party to do it demonstrates the impartiality that's there from the beginning.

In any case, how do Mark and Kathy propose to police all GMs to ensure that strict adherence to their rule is followed whenever a GM, in the privacy of his own home, makes country assignments? Seeing as we have no guarantee that every selection was done in strict accordance with their rules, I propose that all games now, and past, be declared Irregular immediately. Only in those cases where the GM can prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the selection of countries was strictly in accordance with this new rule, will the Irregular label be lifted.

Anyhow . . . Kathy then reverses her earlier decision and decides that the game is irregular because of a minor GM slip of the tongue. I'm afraid virtually every game in the hobby will have to be declared irregular if this is the case.

An example: the evening before my last deadline, a player in one of my games, Jack Jung, was at our home for dinner. Another player in the same game, 1982KA, dropped by to visit while Jack was here. Blair Cusack then handed me his orders, in clear view of Jack, and said, "Here's my orders for 1982KA." So, there could be no doubt in Jack's mind that Blair had indeed submitted orders for the season and so wouldn't NMR. Jack then had an advantage that no other player had in any of my games that season. He could write orders with the knowledge of what another player had, or had not done.

((Con'd next pg.))

1983AY "Affair" (Con'd)

If 1983AY is to remain forever 'Irregular', then I demand that 1982KA also be declared irregular because of the situation I've outlined here. Inviting a player to dinner can be added to the list of major and serious offences that a GM can commit.

And, how often, over the years, have I spent some time with some of my players and we've chatted about the hobby? Though I am careful to be discreet about any GMing information, I may well have made comments like, "So and so is a very steady player." Or "Whatshishame NMRs a lot." Surely these comments can be construed by the nit-pickers to be GM interference, as the GM is passing information onto a player that he might find useful.

Or what about 1982 when I drove Steve Hutton to Baltimore. We stopped off and visited other players in games I was GMing in which Steve was a player. Did this trip give him an unfair advantage? Remember, the GM was doing the driving--and thus was contributing greatly to the players' gaining an advantage over other players not along for the trip. And what about three days in a car for 'too much contact'?

Heck, the more I think about it, the more I am convinced that every game in the hobby is irregular!

I suppose the purists, like Mark Berch, would like to see the hobby's GMs locked up in isolation for the two-three years it takes to play a game, with orders being passed through a slot in the door every deadline. Players would have to sign strict pledges that they will not meet with each other, or do any other thing that might unduly influence the course of the game. We wouldn't want anyone having an advantage that the others don't have.

I would like to end by reminding Mark and Kathy that we do inhabit a real world quite apart from DIPLOMACY and that people are bound to slip below their high moral standards occasionally. And, yes, it is the function of the BNC to be on the lookout for serious departures from the norms, as laid out by the BNCs own guidelines which have been published in EVERYTHING. But the case of 1983AY is one of bullying and harassment for minor offences, one of which is violation of a new rule declared by Mark Berch after the fact.

I cannot understand why Kathy is so determined to have this game declared irregular, especially after her first letter in which she said, "GMs are human." Seems she forgot that after she spoke with Mark Berch on the subject. I just wish they'd get off our case and let us get on with our game. It was one of the finest games I've played until they started mucking it up! So much for the "this hobby is for fun" school, eh?

Sorry I went on at such length, but the arbitrariness of this ruling has really angered me. What protection do we have from the BNC's decisions? To whom can we appeal? I intensely dislike and distrust all absolute authority. So, keep fighting it, Ron and Mike. I'm with you.

((from Mark Berch))

Dear Ron Brown,

Your write-up and discussion of 1983AY was generally excellent. I want to clarify a couple of points, especially as regards to my role in this business.

Kathy did indeed seek my opinion here, and I told her I felt that the game was irregular, an opinion that I still hold. However, some of the factors that you mention were not important to me at all. The fact that country preference lists were not used was irrelevant. That fact that you selected some of the players for the game (or all of them) is also irrelevant. In fact, Kathy didn't even mention that to me, and 83AY is hardly the first such game. The fact that you and the GM together selected the replacement player, Jim Bumpas, was also not a factor, because 1) Jim didn't actually enter the game, and 2) I didn't learn this from Kathy until much later. However, in my opinion, this was completely improper. If a GM is going to select a standby jointly with one of the players, then all of the players remaining in the game must have an equal say. It is simply not fair for one player to have a role in this which other

((Con'd next pg.))

1983AY "Affair" (Con'd)

players did not. There was no need for this. You could have simply given him the entire MM standby list, or simply left him to his own devices, just to name 2 alternatives. If you felt that he could not pick a replacement player all by himself, then you should have either made this a no replacement game, or selected a different GM in the first place, one who you felt could do this. There were only two reasons for my opinion. In descending order:

- 1) The GM broke a confidence by revealing to a player a very sensitive piece of information told to him by another player. It is absolutely necessary that a GM not pass on game information. To make matters worse, the player (you) was not even required to keep his mouth shut about his, and in fact, you didn't.
- 2) The selection of country assignments was not done by the GM or under his supervision, but rather, done under a player's supervision. This is simply something that a GM cannot delegate to a player, even if the player then has someone else do it. The fact that you got a country that you did not like irrelevant (the problem could just as well have been not that Stafford was afraid of you getting a country that you wanted, but that Stafford got a country that he didn't want) -- this is a GMing, not a player function.

I'm not sure what my opinion would have been if there had only been one of these two items in the game, but with both of them, I have no doubt in my mind that the game is irregular. These two incidents comprise improper GM-player contacts.

The other thing I wanted to comment on was this business of "cheating". My opinion is NOT the equivalent of, or based on a conclusion of, saying that cheating was present. To be called "Irregular" says that there were serious problems with how the game was run. It does not imply that there was any dishonesty. I personally don't see any evidence for dishonesty. The GM simply didn't understand certain aspects of his job.

I feel that Kathy has handled this difficult situation very well. She got not one but two outside opinions, and her decision is consistent with what we both said. Whether the game is rated or not is of course entirely up to ratingsmasters.

I hope you will decide to have new game openings in the future.

((from Rod Walker))

Dear Ron:

Thanks for your request. I'll be happy to comment on the 1983AY Affair. As you know, Kathy Byrne first consulted with Mark Berch on the matter, and he thought the game should be noted as "irregular". Somewhat later, Kathy decided to get a second opinion (a good clinical approach) and asked me about it, since I am an ex-BNV. I received an extremely pleasant call from Kathy, who laid out the events of the game in a perfectly matter-of-fact manner (no editorializing), without telling me any names, zines, or whatever. I gave her my opinion: that the game should be noted as irregular. I also sent an opinion in writing. It was only after she had my opinion that Kathy told me who was involved (although not that Dan Stafford was the Austrian player; I learned that later.)

The BNC is called upon, either in individual cases or automatically in certain broad categories of games, to note that games are "irregular". This has nothing to do with whether any "cheating" is going on. Games whose players are essentially local to each other, for instance, are "irregular". Nothing is wrong with those games, but some raters won't rate them. (I do, however.) Generally, "irregular" means that there is some unusual feature of the game which may have significantly affected its progress. Raters will then have to decide on their own whether a given factor in a given game was of real significance. I personally feel very negatively toward the current trend of raters to delete any "irregular" game from their computations. That's sheer laziness and using the "irregular" notation in a way for which it was not intended.

Of course there are some "irregular" games where actual GM malfeasance was involved. Several of Buddy Tretick's; one of Eric Ozog's, as you'll recall; there was

((Con'd next pg.))

1983AY "Affair" (Con'd)

some UK GM who made all the retreats himself. But these were rare. Kathy does not feel, nor does Mark Berch, nor do I, that there is any question of misconduct here. Just an unfortunate accident which arises as a natural consequence of how the game was set up.

I will grant that the assignment of countriss was procedurally awkward, and that the head start it gave you was perhaps significant (who can tell?) On that basis alone the game is irregular but, in my opinion, still quite rateable . . . and I will rate it. I will also recommend to Stephen Wilcox that he consider including it in DTRS ((K Dragon Tooth Rating System)).

The replacement situation is a different matter. As it happens, Dan did not, in the upshot, resign. So no harm was actually done, I'd consider the game still rateable. However, if an actual replacement were to take place under the same circumstances, I'd decline to include the game in my rating system. I do not feel that you should have any hand in selecting the replacement player, nor should you have any advance notice of whether a player is replaced, nor by whom.

If I may recommend something -- I know that Mike has no replacement or standby list of his own. And I understand that this is an invitational game & you'd like to be sure that appropriate people are in it. Why not send Mike a list of 3-4 (or more, preferably) appropriate names/addresses (and keep it updated, from which he can select at random? Publish the list of available people so that nobody in the game knows less about the standby situation than you do. Then just let Mike do his thing and call for s/b orders or put in replacements just as any other GM would do. That gets you off the hook and out of the replacement process (where, as a player, you don't belong). Given the really able and dependable people you've got in your game, this probably won't actually ever be used.

There may be some mean people who will willfully and inaccurately interpret Kathy's ruling as something more than a purely administrative notation. (I use "mean" here in its primary English sense, not the sense in which school children . . . of minor age use it these days.) You would not want such people in your games, anyway.

For myself I have not a moment's hesitation in recommending your zine and your games to anyone. You are well established, consistent, regular . . . and you run an extremely nice zine. What more can anyone ask? I'm sure Kathy feels the same way . . . frankly, once this matter was referred to her she had to make some ruling on it . . . and in my opinion, it was a correct one. You must surely know that she means nothing personal by it; she has never had any words for you or MM but kind ones and her opinion (insofar as I am aware of it) has not changed.

You know, this was not a hasty decision on Kathy's part. We have had 3 superb DNC's in the recent past (Lee, Dan, and Kathy), and of the three, Kathy is in some way quite the best. (I was guilty of making an awfully nasty and uncalled-for remark in NSWG about her for which I've apologized, and can only say that I was letting some severe personal stress kick my brains into nonfunctionality. . . Insofar as I know, on every controversial matter which has come up, Kathy has gotten at least one other opinion from an ex-DNC, and sometimes several. She certainly has had more than her share of natty problems, too. She has handled this matter with a great deal of care and tact.

In any event, please understand that this minor glitch is no general reflection on you, and all hobby members of good will will so understand it. Why worry about the rest?

Let me say, too, that Mike should not consider this a reflection on himself, either. We all have to GM for the first time sooner or later, if we are to GM at all. So we pull a faux pas. I'm a pretty experienced GM and now and then I glitch something, too. Ask Mark Berch . . . he'll give you an earful. More than you ever wanted (like this ~~little~~ novel). We ought never to be discouraged by our mistakes; we should only learn from them. Mike will do better next time . . . and you should encourage him to make sure that there is a next time.

By the way, congratulations on your extremely calm response to a decision you disagreed with. Some people would have thrown a tantrum. This is just another reason why your zine is so highly respected.

((Con'd next pg.))

1983AY "Affair" (Con'd)

((from Bruce Linsey (VOICE OF DOOM#98 Pg.37))

There have been some minor (in my opinion) GMing indiscretions -- none of the parties involved denies that. At the beginning of the game, a non-involved party (Dan Kuszynski) assigned the countries by random draw. And at one point during the game, The GM let it slip that one of the players was resigning ((actually it was "he's thinking about resigning-RB)) (although he ultimately stayed in the game.) When it was thought that the player (Dan Stafford) was going to resign, the GM asked Ron for help in finding a player to fill the position, and Ron chose a name from the MM standby list -- but the standby did not ultimately get into the game.

Based on these circumstances, Kathy Byrne has declared the game irregular as the result of a player (Stafford) complaining of "illegal GM-player collusion". Kathy herself notes that there was no deliberate attempt by the GM to bias the game, but nonetheless she feels that "one player did have too much contact with the GM concerning different phases of the game."

Let me address the three points above one by one. First: the drawing of the countries. Unless Kathy (or Stafford) is going to argue that the draw was rigged or somehow not random, it doesn't matter who assigned the countries. Even if a player himself had done this, a random draw is a random draw. Now I would be leery of letting a player assign the countries even by random draw, but in this case it wasn't even a player who did so -- it was an involved party. Random is random. I have seen nothing to indicate that anyone had anything other than a one-in-seven chance to receive any given country, just as there would have been had the GM assigned them by lot.

Second: the GM let it slip that a player was resigning. Potentially serious, and yee, it could have affected the game. But apparently it didn't -- and in light of the fact that the player ultimately stayed in the game, it really couldn't have.

Third: the choice of a standby. Again, this is potentially serious. But the whole point is totally hypothetical, since the standby never got in. So it's a red herring. A game cannot be declared irregular based on what might have been.

In light of the above, I personally do not agree with Kathy's decision, although I know of two very highly respected hobbyists (including a former BNC) who do. . .

I do wish to note one very relevant point here. A large part of the furor is based on the fact that GM Coburn did not assign the countries, which is of course a function of the GM. But wait a minute. Who says that a GM can never delegate these functions? Who GMed Steve Arnawoodian's games while he was in Europe last year? That's right, Bob Olsen took over the task. Clearly, adjudicating games is a function of the GM. Are Arnawoodian's games therefore irregular because he delegated the task of adjudicating for a season or two? I don't think so, even though I personally wouldn't allow it for a VD game. . .

However, despite all of the above, I will admit that the final decision is Kathy's to make. The way the hobby is currently structured, she does have this power. And there is no appeal for Ron Brown or Mike Coburn.

((From (former) BNC Kathy Byrne))

Dear Ron,

Comments on 1983AY, not really. I think that I have said enough. I'm sorry but I have to stand by my decision. The worst part of the entire thing is the way ~~you~~ you are taking it. You keep saying that I think you cheated etc. -- that is totally untrue. You have no idea how hard that decision was for me, especially in view of our friendship. If I wanted someone to agree with me, I sure as hell wouldn't have gone to Walker and Berch. I do not believe that the game was irregular before it started. I still feel the same way, the GM was just too inexperienced and he relied too heavily on your help. I just wish that you weren't taking this so hard.

((Con'd next pg.))

(())

1983AY "Affair"

Ron, here. Well, that's it. Some very candid opinions expressed on both sides of the issue. I've already given my opinion before, so I won't go on and on here. It's interesting to note, isn't it, how different people's perspectives affect the way they interpret things. Rod Walker commended me on "your extremely calm response to a decision you disagreed with," while Kathy only wishes "that you weren't taking this so hard." Oh well.

I am very concerned with, no make it DISTURBED with the authority and/or power wielded by a select few members of the hobby. What really gets to me is that any body can become DNC and suddenly new regulations concerning postal play are generated; and they become retroactive, of course!

I'm sending this to many of the newer and younger publishers today who may be forced into undergoing similar conflicts in the future with "Hobby Custodians".

In my mind, there is absolutely no way in hell that 1983AY is an irregular game. It is this "interpretation" of the word irregular that I believe is the ~~max~~ crux of the matter. Rod Walker states that "all irregular" status means is that something out of the ordinary took place. It doesn't mean that Ratingsmasters don't have to rate it; but then he goes right on to admit that ALL modern ratings syetmes use the DNC decisions carte blanche!

1983AY is condemned to unratable status because

- 1) Mike told me Stafford might resign
- 2) I told Mike Bumpas would be an excellent choice as a standby
- 3) the GM didn't make the random draw himself

I really feel persecuted and picked on. If this game is irregular because of the above reasons, then how many other "irregular" games are there out there being rated just fine!!! In answer to the #1 - It had NO affect on the game. The player didn't even resign after all. To declare a game irregular on that basis is assinine. In answer to #2, because I chose all the players myself for this game, I confirmed Mike's selection of Bumpas as a good player - he didn't even come into the game! Yet this is gone into great depth by several of those who see 83AY as indeed irregular. What did Bruce call it? A red herring. In answer to #3, I've NEVER EVER seen, heard, or read that the GM had to make country assignments. If this is true let's please spread the word!! But again, you and I know this is a retarded reason. The rule book states "random draw" and that's exactly what 83AY got, a random draw.

Yes, I'm still a bit bitter about it; and I think it's easy to see why. No, you can count on the fact that I'll never GM another DIPLOMACY game. Not until there is some clarification and/or limitations to the power of the DNC custodianship. Do you blame me?

This, is my final appeal, as my duty as publisher leads me, to the new DNC, Bill Quinn to overturn the previous decision and take away the "irregular" status unfairly given it. How about it Bill?

I don't expect positive results. For starters Bill is devoted to Kathy and I doubt very much he will do something as bold as the reversal of her decree. But I must give it a shot. I welcome response/opinions/blatherings etc. to this topic. I'll print them in the next MM, sometime in December.

* * * * *

"Let me have men about me that are
fat;
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o'
nights.
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry
look;
He thinks too much: such men are
dangerous."

JULIUS CAESAR I, 11, 191.

MURDERING MINISTERS MAILING LIST

((Last time the list had a couple of mistakes and changes since then. The accurate and complete list follows. The number in parenthesis (#) represents the issue your sub expires. The notation P/T means "Partial Trade" - a deal with certain publishers that has them sending me a copy of their zine when one of mine shows up.

- 83) Jeff Albrecht, PO Box 295 Doland, SD 57436-0295
 (84) Jon Baldwin, 5908 Fennel Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 (92) Jim Bumpas, 4405 Oillard Rd., Eugene, OR 97405
 (100) Mike Coburn, 5300-2 Ounsmuir, Bakersfield, CA 93309
 (P/T) Fred O'Garry, 4405 Oillard Rd., Eugene, OR 97405
 (93) Richard C. Edison, 1535 B-1 Gatehouse Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80904
 (88) Debbie Frederick, Chamberlain Basin, Salmon River Star Rt., Cascade, ID 83611
 (P/T) Paul Gardner, Rt. 1 Box 2338, Newfane VT 05345
 (94) Daniel Gorham, 800 So. Euclid Ave., Fullerton, CA 92634
 (83) Ken Hagar, 14013 Old Harbor Lane, #306, Marina Del Rey, CA 90291
 (77) W.A. "Bill" Hugh, 8211 San Angelo #A5, Huntington Beach, CA 92647
 (84) Stan Johnson, 10 Pine St., Edison, NJ 08817.
 (100) Dan Kuszynski, 403 Real Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93309
 (78) Steve Langley, 2296 Eden Roc Ln. #1, Sacto, CA 95825
 (87) Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. E, Dalton, MA 01226
 (88) Jerry Lucas, 3902 Lakemead Way, Redwood City, CA 94062
 (83) John Macfarlane, 630 Totavi, Los Alamos, NM 87544
 (84) Robert Olsen, 6818 Winterberry Circle, Wichita, KS 67226
 (84) D.S. Palter, Box 156, Cedarhurst, NY 11516
 (P/T) Larry Peery, PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92101
 (82) Ted Pitas, 119 Sherman St., Portland, ME 04101
 (100) Alfred Rodriguez, 2112 Roosevelt, Bakersfield, CA 93304
 (83) Mark Rowell, 322 Curtner #C, Palo Alto, CA 94306
 (97) Don Scheifler, 23 Ponca, Kirkwood, MO 63122
 (82) Ben Schilling, Apt. 315 24730 Roosevelt Ct., Farmington Hills, MI 48018-2123
 (85) Bill Schiwautz, 12212 Hart St., North Hollywood, CA 91605
 (85) Brian Sherin, 765 San Antonio Rd. #48, Palo Alto, CA 94303
 (86) Wylie Wilson, 1010 25th St. NW #106, Washington D.C. 20037
 (82) Ron Kelly, 240 Manor Circle #8, Takoma Park, MD 20912
 (84) Jim Broshot, PO Box 82, Kingston, MD 64650 (816) 575-2257
 (80) Lynn S. Torkelson, 992 Rosedale Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 (404) 892-6262
 (84) Melinda Holley, PO Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727
 (88) Stefan Patejak, c/o West End Games, 251 W. 30th St. Loft 4, Front East, New York, NY 10001
 (100) Marshall Hughes, 2224 San Emidio, Bakersfield, CA 93304

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"Men that hazard all
 Do it in hope of fair advantages:
 A golden mind stoops not to show of
 dross."

((As everyone knows, May brings us all the excitement of the Kentucky Derby. With this year's race still fresh in everyone's mind, it seems appropriate to print the following tale from Beauregard Bureaucrat. - RB))

Dear Ron,

I was in Louisville recently for the Kentucky Derby (trying to recoup the family fortunes). They had a whole week of goings-on from Balloon Races to concerts, and parades to steamboat races. One night after several Mint Juleps, I heard the following story; I really don't know if it is true or not. I know how you like the "Ring of Truth", and he said it was true. So here is a "horse" story for your readers.

"A TRUE STORY"

as retold by Beauregard Bureaucrat

This is a story of a real family, and a real horse. This is the story of Colonel Retch Butler, his lovely blue-eyed daughter Busty, and the colt with the look of eagles in his eyes.

The Butler family had been a proud one it its day but, if the troubling truth be told, the Colonel had boozed away his heritage, until finally he had sold all but a paltry corner of his magnificent farm to Mahmoud Al Shiboorn, head of OPEC's Bluegrass Division. Mahmoud, it is written in the sands of time, couldn't tell a fetlock from a Maidenform Bra, but he had heard it was cool to win the Derby, and had decided to do so.

Alas, when his prize mare foaled a colt, sired by the great stallion What Again (by Not Tonight, out of Terrible Headache) Mahmoud, in his joy, lifted the colt toward Allah with a shout. Unfortunately, his hands were covered with oil, the colt slipped and fell, and what it didn't sprain, it broke. A mess.

I just happened that at that very moment Busty Butler was skipping by on her way to the neighborhood tavern to get her daddy a fifth of dog hair when she saw this crumpled colt come sailing through the foaling barn window.

"oh, Mr. Mahmoud," she said, scraping the colt together, "did you happen to drop this darling little horsie?"

"Just putting him out for his morning run," said the evil Mahmoud. "How's you like to buy him? A little off his feed today, but good as new, sound as a dollar, only ridden once, and then by a dwarf."

"Oh, sir, Mr. Mahmoud," said Busty, "I'm just poor little Busty Butler next door, and if horses were selling for 10 cents a hundred, I couldn't buy a whinny. Anyhow, he looks a little second-hand to me."

"All right, kid," said Mahmoud. "Tell you what I'm going to do. You can have him free for nothing like, seeing as how I'd have to mix him with gravy to get dogs to eat him. May the blessings of the profit go with him."

"I think that's prophet, Mr. M." said Busty.

"Kid," said Mahmoud, "in OPEC, it's spelled profit."

So, clutching the poor little beast to her breast, Busty carried him home.

"What ya doin' with that stuped-looking beaset?" asked the Colonel.

"Papa, please," said Busty, "this is a colt."

"I was speaking to the colt," said the Colonel, and fell out of his chair laughing.

"Ha, ha, ha! Gotcha again, didn't I? Where's the booze?"

"He's a darling little horse, and I'm going to patch him up and some day he'll win the Derby and make me richer than a Louisville burglar," said Busty.

And so she lavished love and care and oats on the beast, which she had named Doudah, in memory of an old lullaby her mother used to sing before she was called to that great backstretch in the sky, and slowly he became a right fair-to-middling nag. At night, when Mahmoud and his oil bunch were belly-dancing it up, Busty would slip Doudah onto the training track at Mahmoud's spread, and before you know it

((Con'd next pg.))

"A TRUE STORY" (Con'd)

he was whipping off six furlongs in less time than it takes an Arab to raise oil prices.

"Oh, Doudah (pronounced doo-dah) was running so fast that Dusty knew she had taught him all she could, so she took what little money she had and hired the best jockey she could afford, an old jocksy named Bill Strap, whom sport writers referred to as "That old jock, Strap."

"Whoops!" said the Colonel, when Dusty brought Strap home, "Where'd you get that sawed-off freak?"

"Daddy, please!" said Dusty, "this is a jockey."

"I was speaking to the jockey," said the Colonel, and fell off his bar stool laughing. "Ha, ha, ha! Gotcha again, didn't I, muddle-mind?"

"Daddy, have a drinky-poo and listsn. Doudah just went a mile and a quarter in one, fifty-five."

"Say again", said the Colonel.

"The kid ain't whistling 'Camptown Races'," said Bill Strap. "This here now hoss Doudah could start the day after the Derby and still win the rosss."

"If we only had a fsw thousand dollars," sighed Dusty, "we could enter him in the Derby, and he'd win a potful, and we could buy back the farm from Mr. Mahmoud, and Mama would look down from that grsat backstrech in the sky and smile."

"Not to mention that your sweet ole daddy could afford a superior grade of el boozo," said the Colonel. "Wait a minute, kid. It just so halpens that your old daddy's been squirreling away a few folding ones against a reiny day, and I think I feel the first drops falling."

"And I can sell that pathstic little brooch Mama left me when she went . . ."

"OK, yet," said the Colonel. "Stop talking, start walking. Lst's get this bag of bones entered."

So when Derby Day arrived, all of the papers were full of speculation about the mystery horse. In the paddock, as the other high-spirited thoroughbreds pranced about and the bacn played "My Old Kentucky Home," Dusty hugged her littls horse, who had grown big and strong and beautiful. "Oh," she said, "I just know this is going to be a Doudah day. You will run fast, won't you, Doudah, and beat all those other horses?" To which Doudah replied, "Whinny," because he had gotten tired of saying, "Neigh." It sounded so negative, somehow. Not at all the image he wanted, especially for network TV.

The bugle called them to the post. A hundred and twsnty thousand pairs of eyss strained toward the starting game. A bell rang. The horses surged forward. They're off! roared the mob.

Like a bolt of lightning, out sprang Doudah. Down the track he flew, far ahead of the others. Somewhere in that mighty throng, Doudah knew, was Dusty, to whom he owed it all. He turned to look for her. He slipped. Down he went.

Broke a leg. Had to be destroyed.

But now, as Derby Day nears, late at night along shed row, you can hear those voices singing. Doudah, they sing, Doudah, adding as if remembering that one great afternoon, "Oh, Doudah Day!"

((Deauregard submitted this for publication many moons ago and I had mispaaled it. I don't know how many of you are horse racing fans; Al Rodriguez is pretty hard core and so I dedicate this article to you, Al. Thanks Deauregard, for an interesting and entertaining look at the Kentucky Derby. - RB))

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"And oftentimes excusing of a fault
Doth make the fault the worse by the
excuse."

COMMENTS ON THE REHOUSING OF ORPHANS

by
S. E. Johnson III

In our society, the placement of orphans receives care and consideration from many persons and organizations.

In pbm DIPLOMACY two people ultimately control the fate of orphaned games. The first is the gamesmaster; the parent who created this child of misfortune. In many cases this person is a beast who simply abandons his child. In my opinion, persons guilty of this offense, should be tarred and feathered, whenever possible. Sometimes the Orphan Director is able to save such games; but the majority are lost and never even receive a decent burial. They go on in game Limbo doomed for all eternity. Look at Kathy Byrne's list of lost games. ((This is ex-DNC's Kathy Byrne's list of games printed about a year ago requesting info on several "lost" games - RB)). Every long term Hobbyist will recognize a name or two; but the concrete records that would put these games to rest, does not seem to exist. My many moves during college precluded amassing old DIPLOMACY material.

On the other hand, the GM may be a decent human being and turn the game over directly to another GM or to the Orphan Director.

If the Orphan Director gets it, he re-houses it with a zine of his choice.

Very rarely, if ever, are the players consulted. What is worse perhaps, is no research is done into the qualifications of the adoptee and indeed none seem necessary. People starting out new zines can pack them with orphans. The new GM often cares little for the game. Terry Tallman made a series of mistakes in a game I'm in, that a blind man would have seen. What was worse he steadfastly ignored people pointing them out to him. Even he finally admitted the obvious nature of his GMing and appointed a guest GM. But he didn't have to. Players in orphaned games often have to take, whatever, the new GM throws at them.

I feel players in orphaned games should have certain inalienable rights. One is that every player in a game has one absolute veto of any placement. Secondly, I feel that any time orphaned players can prove that a new GM is endangering the welfare of the game by careless mistakes or regular publishing lapses, they may request and receive rehousing. Thirdly, I feel that whenever players in a game request rehousing in a particular zine and that GM is amenable, it be granted.

Remember, every player who leaves the Hobby due to the way his game was handled may be lost to us forever. Think of all the Edl Birsans who never were!

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((Thanks for the article, Stan. Two issues of sub credit are added to your sub. I agree with you very much on your opinion regarding players' rights in placing a game of theirs with someone they desire. Stan submitted this article a while back and I'm just now getting around to publishing it. However, it's as timely now as ever.

I would think, in most games, that when a game is orphaned, the players are quite happy with anyone who offers to take over as GM. However, there are times (for fairly obvious reasons) you might not want a particular person to be your GM. So your idea of a veto power is good. I not sure exactly what power the Orphan Games Service has to "strip" games of GMs of their games against their will. Apparently it has the right to do so; based solely upon the judgement of the Custodian. A few years ago, (before the existence of the Service), it was generally accepted that in order for a game to be shifted from one GM to another against the will of the GM, a unanimous consent from the players was required. I'm not sure, but it sounds as if the current Custodian, James Burgess, 100 Holden St., Providence, RI 02908 can rehouse games at any time, based upon his good judgement. Jim might like to hear your views on the subject, so if you'd care to share your opinion with him, write him at the above address. - RB))

MORE STUFF (Con'd from pg.1)

First, a last minute letter from Paul Gardner:
 Hon,

It's sad to see the passing of another of my favorite zine, as much as I understand the reasoning behind it. I think you deserve a big pat on the back for the High quality of MM. I have recently been in touch with Bruce Linsey and I understand that he also began his playing days in MM and I believe Gary Coughlan named MM as one of his first zines (along with VD). That's some pretty good company.

One institution from MM that I would like to see continued is the grand tradition of the NIXON Award. If no one else volunteers, I for one would love to continue it in the pages of NOT NEW YORK! Let me know what you think. Good luck in whatever you do.

Yours,

Paul Gardner

((Thanks for appreciating the time etc. that has gone into the zine over the years.

It's been a pleasure. See the letter from Bob Olsen regarding the NIXON. IF my interest in postal DIP wane to the point I'm not interested in the Award any further, then rest assured that Peareon, Gardner, or Mazzer will capably continue the tradition! Thanks for your concern over the award -- I never thought the old NIXON would become as big a deal as it has (Not that's it is a big deal. Just some fun). Anyhow, thanks for taking me up on the offer for a limited trade. Any publishers out there reading this who would like to have the same deal as Paul (i.e. - you send me a copy of your zine when I send you one of mine; mine will be irregular), let me know. Thanks for the nice words, Paul. - RB))

Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 has recently made available the results of the latest annual RUNESTONE POLL. Bruce has compiled into a large collection of statistics the results and released them as "The Cream Shall Rise!". This is billed as "the official publication of the North American Zine and GM (runestone) Poll Custodian. TCSR is free to any publisher who printed the ballot and instructions Bruce sent out, \$1.00 for those who voted, and \$2.00 for those who didn't. Bruce has packaged his report neatly into a 56 page effort and is more than well worth the cost. The winners were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) <u>VOICE OF DOOM</u> | 11) <u>ANDUIN</u> |
| 2) <u>NO FIXED ADDRESS</u> | 12) <u>MACABRE</u> |
| 3) <u>EUROPA EXPRESS</u> | 13) <u>FRODOZZ</u> |
| 4) <u>SNAFU!</u> | 14) <u>THE INNER LIGHT</u> |
| 5) <u>EXCELSIOR</u> | 15) <u>FOL SI FIE</u> |
| 6) <u>SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS</u> | 16) <u>THE CONCERT OF EUROPE</u> |
| 7) <u>PERELANDRA</u> | 17) <u>THE DOGS OF WAR</u> |
| 8) <u>DIPLOMACY DIGEST</u> | 18) <u>NOT NEW YORK</u> |
| 9) <u>THE DIPLOMAT</u> | 19) <u>THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD</u> |
| 10) <u>MAGUS</u> | 20) <u>XENOLOGIC</u> |

Congratulations to Bruce for finally gaining his well-deserved recognition for his vast efforts with VD. Naturally, EUROPA EXPRESS is right up there in the top 3; and could very easily have been #1 just as it has the previous 2 years in a row! All the "TOP TWENTY" are fine, well deserving zines and here's a hearty, "Good show!" to them! MURD'RING MINISTERS came in at #43 on the main list (71 total) with a rating of 5.488.

In the GM Poll, the top 10 GMs in the country are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Mark Larzelere | 6) John Boardman |
| 2) Gary Coughlan | 7) Steve Langley |
| 3) Andy Lischett | 8) Steve Heinowski |
| 4) Bruce Linsey | 9) Dave Carter |
| 5) John Daly | 10) Dave Leiman |

Congrats to the above for excellent performances over the past year. I came in at #42 with a rating of 6.875. This year a record 265 voters participated in the poll - a testimony to the outstanding and aggressive job by Bruce. If you haven't got yours yet, hurry. It's a steal!

((Con'd pg. 23))

1983F FINAL STATS AND ENDGAME STATEMENTS

((Con'd))

in between.

At that point France went after me presumably to go for the win outright or to reach a 17-17 draw with Turkey. So I did the sensible thing and proposed a draw, which to my surprise and delight ended ~~the game~~ the game before France had a chance to bring about my demise.

The course of this game saw big changes in my own style of play - not all for the better - although I was learning constantly from other games I was in as well. I was probably the most inconsistent player on the board, while on the other hand Bill Schiwautz played well and deserved the two-way. Don Scheifler did not really ever get a chance in this onw, while Mike Coburn benefitted from the largess of players around him. Overall, a good game and my thanks to Ron Brown for seeing it through.

TURKEY - Bill Schiwautz (Draw F'08)

((Bill sent in an endgame statement but I've misplaced it under the stack of papers here in my mess of a study; so I'll print his along with Mike Coburn's, who is late getting his to me. Sorry, Bill. I'll get it int. the next issue! - RB))

* * * * *

STILL MORE STUFF ((Con'd from pg. 22))

Paul Gardner's NOT NEW YORK has a game of regular DIPLOMACY open. The gamefee is \$5.00. Subs to NNY are ? It doesn't say anywhere in #7, but I'll bet they're reasonable. Write to Paul at Rt. 1 Box 2338, Newfane, VT 05345 for a sample.

Have you guys been reading about our Killer Bees yet? Gary C. sent me a couple of clippings from the Memphis paper talking about the "killer bees" found 60 miles northwest of Bakersfield. Actually some of the aggressive African strain that are currently running amok in South America got into Kern County here through some oil field equipment. An oilfield worker noticed them first when he saw a swarm attack and kill a rabbit. Two colonies were discovered. They are crossbreeds with the normal honey bee; but when the African and the honey bees mix, the offspring inherit the more aggressive nature of the African variety. Oh well, the search goes on . . . I saw the first tee-shirt the other day taking advantage of the publicity. It read "I survived the Killer Bees". . .

Bill Quinn, 301 Conroe Dr., Conroe, TX 77301 welcomes you to join his "Universal Standby List". Bill is the current Boardman Number Custodian and hopes to establish a hobby-wide standby list. If you'd like to join, send Bill your name, address, and the number of games you are willing to standby in, along with your signature. This might be a good idea.

The LIBERTERREAN has always been very special to me. It was my very first zine I played in and my first game (1977IE) was played out within its pages. I have gotten the LIB practically non-stop for the past 8 years! And Jim is finally getting out. He has decided to no longer publish the LIB. But the LIB will not die! Kevin Kozlowski, a former nemesis of mine will be taking over the zine and continuing on with its fine tradition. I'm sure he will do a good job. Thanks, Jim for such an outstanding publishing career! And thank you for giving us the LIBERTERREAN for so long, so soon (only 2 week deadlines throughout its life), and so well!

The ZINE DIRECTORY is now available from Roy W. Nenricks, 128 Deerfields Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235 if you haven't already gotten yours, for the paltry sum of \$2. Very well done and complete, I'm sure this would be something every "avid" hobby member should possess. I just got mine the other day and I feel very worth the price. Get one!

WRAP-UP

Well, I hope you liked getting caught up on some of our reading stuff. And I sure hope the 83AY stuff contained doesn't hurt anyone's feelings. It shouldn't and wasn't intended to. But I do feel entitled to an opinion on the matter and wanted to express it and what others thought. Thanks for all the understanding and encouragement by all of you over the years. It's appreciated. Some players in games herein will in all likelihood be contacted regarding the shifting of games to another GM.. Let me say that if that is what the players of the games in question want, then I'll be happy to cooperate in a smooth transition to another GM. The next turn's moves for all games will be going out separately to players only by flyer for the next several months. We probably won't publish another issue until December. At that time I'll be calling for NIXON Award nominations; so be thinking about who you will write about in nomination for the next award. Check the deadlines for the games herein. And don't NMR! You will receive a glass vial containing the air of a foul Al Rodriguez fart if you do! Bye! Oh yeah! And Mike will be sending the 1983AY results out by flyer apart from this issue!

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Your sub expires _____

* We have a Partial/Trade _____ *

* You are getting this because I
* thought you might like to see it: *

* You are getting this to be
* tortured *

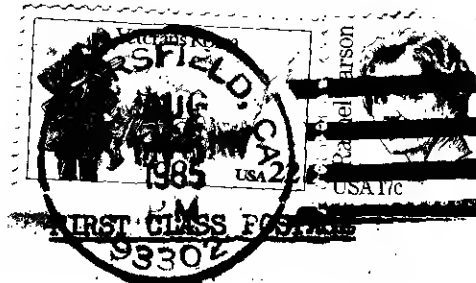
* You are getting this because you
* have tricked into thinking it's
* published on * another world! *

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